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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/798,565	03/12/2004	Kenji Takata	Q80437	6507

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WASHINGTON, DC 20037

EXAMINER
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POLYZOS, FAYE S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2878

DATE MAILED: 10/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/798,565

Applicant(s)

TAKATA, KENJI

Examiner

Faye Polyzos

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 12 March 2004.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-19 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 9-11 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 16-18 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 12 March 2004 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119**

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- 1) ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - 2) ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - 3) ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                        | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)                     |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)               | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____  |
| 3) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date <u>3/12/2004</u> .   | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

## DETAILED ACTION

### ***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103***

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

2. Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamamoto et al (US 4,703,537) in view of Ogawa et al (US 3,969,785).

Regarding claim 1, Yamamoto et al discloses (Fig. 1) a sheet-like member cleaning device (1) for removing dust particles from a sheet-like member (20) which is being fed by a feed system comprising of a brush-like roller (11) rotatable in contact with the surface of the sheet-like member which is being fed by the feed system (col. 3, lines, 17-24). Yamamoto does not disclose the feeding system comprising of a duct or an airflow generating means.

Ogawa et al discloses (Fig. 1) an apparatus comprising a duct section (B) surrounding a portion of the feed system and housing the brush roller assembly (col. 2, lines 56-59), and an air flow (11) generating means for generating an air flow (d) in the duct to prevent dust particles from entering the feed system. Ogawa teaches a means for directing air towards dislodged particles efficiently into the filter (duct) section directing air towards dislodged particles efficiently into the filter section.

Therefore it would have been obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art to modify the apparatus suggested by *Yamamoto* to include a duct section and an airflow generating means in order to allow for a more versatile cleaning apparatus that can remove dust particles from a sheet-like member.

Regarding claim 2, Ogawa discloses a sheet-like member cleaning device wherein the air flow generating means comprises an air suction unit (D) communicating with an air outlet (C) defined in the duct (B), an air discharge unit communicating with an air inlet defined in the duct (B), and a flow path communicating with the air suction unit and the air discharge unit, for circulating air through the duct (col. 2, lines 54-59) (See generally Fig. 1).

Regarding claims 3 and 4, Ogawa discloses a dust removing means disposed in the duct and held in contact with at least a tip end of the brush roller (2) assembly, for removing dust particles from the tip end of the brush roller assembly (col. 4, lines 2-10).

3. Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kohda (US 5,446,292) in view of Ogawa.

Regarding claims 12, Kohda discloses (Fig. 1) a radiation image information reading apparatus (10) for reading information from a stimuable phosphor sheet (2) which is fed by a feed system, comprising: a reading unit for reading the information from the stimuable phosphor sheet, a feed system for feeding the stimuable phosphor sheet to the reading unit; a cleaning mechanism (111) disposed in the feed system upstream of the reading unit; the cleaning mechanism comprising: a housing surrounding a portion of the feed system. Kohda does not disclose of an air suction

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unit. Ogawa discloses of an air suction unit (D). Although Ogawa does not specifically disclosed the air suction unit (D) is for pressurizing an interior space of said housing with respect to an external atmosphere, it would have been obvious that the air suction unit would provided a pressurized atmosphere in an enclosed unit (housing) to make a more versatile cleaning apparatus that can prevent dust particles from being attached to surfaces of the stimuable phosphor sheet (2).

Regarding claim 13, Ogawa discloses, the housing (A1) of the apparatus has an air inlet for introducing air into the housing and an air outlet for drawing and discharging air introduced from the air inlet, whereby dust particles on the stimuable phosphor sheet in the housing can be guided by air introduced from the air inlet (C) toward the air outlet and then discharged from the housing from the air outlet (D) (col. 3, lines 51-58 and col. 4, lines 2-10).

Claims 14, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over Kohda (US 5,446,292) in view of Ogawa.

Regarding claim 14, Kohda discloses (Fig. 1) a radiation image information reading apparatus (10) for reading information from a stimuable phosphor sheet (2) which is fed by a feed system, comprising: a reading unit for reading the information from the stimuable phosphor sheet, a feed system for feeding the stimuable phosphor sheet to the reading unit; a cleaning mechanism (111) disposed in the feed system upstream of the reading unit; the cleaning mechanism comprising: a housing surrounding a portion of the feed system. Kohda does not disclose of the cleaning mechanism comprising of a brush roller. Ogawa discloses of a brush roller (2)

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assembly disposed in a housing (A1) in contact with a surface of the stimuable phosphor sheet which is being fed by the feed system (See generally Fig. 1).

Regarding claim 15, Ogawa discloses a dust removing means disposed in the duct and held in contact with at least a tip end of the brush roller (2) assembly, for removing dust particles from the tip end of the brush roller assembly (col. 4, lines 2-10).

Regarding claim 19, Ogawa discloses a radiation image information reading apparatus wherein the clean mechanism further comprises a flow path (d) for circulating air through the housing (col. 4, lines 11-16).

***Allowable Subject Matter***

Claims 9-11 are allowable.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Regarding independent claim 9, the prior art does not disclose or fairly suggest a sheet-like member cleaning device comprising a feed system with a first and second brush roller pair of the type recited with drive means. The examiner notes that while it is known in the art (see for example Yamamoto et al. – US 4,703,537 – at Fig. 1) for a sheet-like member cleaning device to comprise of a cleaner brush roller provided in a housing and a plurality of guide rollers for guiding the sheet-like member, the prior art does not suggest the device comprising a plurality of brush rollers.

The remaining claims 10 and 11 are allowable on the basis of their dependency.

Claims 5-8 and 16-18 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

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Regarding claims 5-8 and 16-18, the prior art, does not disclose or fairly suggest a sheet-like member cleaning device wherein the brush roller assembly comprises of a first and second brush roller pairs having the drive means recited.

**Conclusion**


The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Faye Polyzos whose telephone number is 571-272-2447. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday thru Friday from 7:30 AM to 4:00 PM..

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Dave Porta can be reached on 571-272-2444. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

FP

  
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